

ABSTRACT

A system for buyers and sellers of goods/services to engage in commerce, comprising one or more central processing units, system software for controlling said one or more central processing units, storage means containing one or more databases with information regarding buyers and sellers and the goods/services available, one or more servers providing for Internet-based access and use of said system, means for buyers of goods/services to select between at least one direct sales channel and at least one indirect sales channel for submitting a request for quotation and/or completing a transaction, means for buyers to transmit requests for quotation to said system, means for said system to transmit requests for quotation to selected sellers, means for sellers to transmit quotations to buyers in response to requests for same.

A method for buyers and sellers of goods/services to engage in commerce, comprising the steps of providing access to a searchable seller goods/services information database to search for desired items; providing buyers with at least one direct sales channel and at least one indirect sales channel from a single point of purchase; receiving requests for quotation for goods/services from buyers; sending said requests for quotation to selected sellers; and processing seller quotations submitted in response to said requests for quotation.